

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A layout system, comprising:

a published information storage device that stores a plurality of pieces of published information;

a published information selection device that selects the published information out of the published information storage device;

a layout device that produces a layout of the published information selected ~~out of~~ by the published information selection device, the layout device producing a layout by storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame arranged in a predetermined layout region;

a template storage device that stores a plurality of different templates; and

a template selection device ~~to select~~ that selects a template out of the template storage device according to ~~the amount of published information selected by the published information selection device~~ an average character number per page and ~~to produce a layout of the published information according to the selected template,~~

the layout device producing the layout of the published information according to the selected template selected by the template selection device,

the average character number per page being based on a total character number of all unpublished articles, a maximum page number to be displayed that stored in a user profile table, and a page number of a layout region to be processed.

3. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 2, the template being a page template that defines the shape, size, and arrangement of an information storage frame to be arranged in a layout region in page units.

4. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to Claim 3, the page template being related to information that indicates the amount of publishable information which can be stored in the information storage frame defined by a relevant page template[,]

~~the template selection device being adapted to select out of the template storage device a page template that is suitable for the amount of published information selected by the published information selection device.~~

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A layout system, comprising:
a published information storage device that stores a plurality of pieces of published information;
a published information selection device that selects the published information out of the published information storage device;
a layout device that produces a layout of the published information selected by the published information selection device, the layout device producing a layout by storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame to be arranged in a predetermined layout region;

a template storage device that stores a plurality of different templates; and

a template selection device ~~to select~~ that selects a template out of the template storage device according to ~~the number of pieces of published information selected by the published information selection device~~ an average character number per page ~~and to produce a layout of the published information according to the selected template,~~

the layout device producing the layout of the published information according to the selected template selected by the template selection device, and

the average character number per page being calculated according to the following equation:

$$N_{ave} = N_{sum} / (P_{max} - P_{cur}),$$

N_{sum} being a total character number of all unpublished articles,

P_{max} being a maximum page number to be displayed that is inputted by a user and stored in a user profile table,

P_{cur} being a page number of a layout region to be processed.

7. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 6, the template being a page template that defines the shape, size, and arrangement of an information storage frame to be arranged in a layout region in page units.

8. (Currently Amended) The layout system according to Claim 7, the page template being related to information that indicates a publishable number that can be stored in the information storage frame defined by a relevant page template, ~~and~~
~~the template selection device being adapted to select out of the template storage device a page template of the publishable number suitable for the number of pieces of published information selected by the published information selection device.~~

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A layout system, comprising:
a published information storage device that stores a plurality of pieces of published information;
a published information selection device that selects the published information out of the published information storage device;

a layout device that produces a layout of the published information selected by the published information selection device, the layout device producing a layout by storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame to be arranged in a predetermined layout region;

a template storage device that stores a plurality of different templates; ~~and~~

a template selection device ~~to select~~ that selects a template out of the template storage device according to the content of published information selected by the published information selection device ~~and to produce a layout of the published information according to the selected template; and~~

a user information storage device that stores user information related to a user, the published information selection device being adapted to select the published information out of the published information storage device on the basis of the user information in the user information storage device,

the layout device producing the layout of the published information according to the selected template selected by the template selection device, and

the user information including a maximum number of pages to be displayed.

11. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 10, the template being a page template that defines the shape, size, and arrangement of an information storage frame to be arranged in a layout region in page units.

12. (Previously Presented) The layout system according to Claim 11, the published information being related to information that indicates a category of relevant published information,

the page template being related to information that indicates a recommended category of published information to be stored in the information storage frame defined by a relevant page template, and

the template selection device being adapted to select out of the template storage device a page template with a recommended category suitable for the category of the published information selected by the published information selection device.

13. (Previously Presented) The layout system according to Claim 12, the template selection device being adapted to specify the most frequent category of those categories of published information to be published on each page among the published information which has been selected by the published information selection device but for which a layout has not been produced, and to select a page template with a recommended category suitable for the specific category out of the template storage device.

14. (Currently Amended) A layout system, comprising:

a published information storage device that stores a plurality of pieces of published information;

a published information selection device that selects the published information out of the published information storage device;

a layout device that produces a layout of the published information selected by the published information selection device, the layout device producing a layout by storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame to be arranged in a predetermined layout ~~region; region~~,

————the published information being related to information that indicates the importance of the published information;

a template storage device that stores a plurality of different templates; ~~and~~

a template selection device to select a template out of the template storage device according to the content of published information selected by the published information selection device ~~and to produce a layout of the published information according to the selected template; and~~

a user information storage device that stores user information related to a user, the published information selection device being adapted to select the published information out of the published information storage device on the basis of the user information in the user information storage device,

the layout device producing the layout of the published information according to the selected template selected by the template selection device, and

the user information including age, sex, favor, address, or operational environment of a terminal of a user.

15. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 14, the template being a page template that defines the shape, size, and arrangement of an information storage frame to be arranged in a layout region in page units.

16. (Previously Presented) The layout system according to Claim 15, the page template being related to information that indicates the recommended importance of published information to be stored in the information storage frame defined by the relevant page template, and

the template selection device being adapted to select out of the template storage device a page template with a recommended importance suitable for the importance of the published information selected by the published information selection device.

17. (Previously Presented) The layout system according to Claim 16, the template selection device being adapted to specify the highest level of importance of those levels of importance of published information to be published on each page among the published

information which has been selected by the published information selection device but for which a layout has not been produced, and to select a page template with recommended importance suitable for the specified importance out of the template storage device.

18. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 2, the system further comprising a user information storage device that stores user information related to a user, the published information selection device being adapted to select published information out of the published information storage device on the basis of the user information in the user information storage device.

19. (Original) The layout system according to Claim 2, the system further comprising a user information storage device that stores user information related to a user, the layout device producing a layout of the published information selected by the published information selection device on the basis of the user information in the user information storage device.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A layout method, comprising:

~~a layout step to produce~~ producing a layout of published information, the ~~layout step~~ producing a the layout by including storing the published information in an information storage frame according to a template that defines items related to the information storage frame to be arranged in a predetermined layout region,

~~a template storing step of~~ storing a plurality of different templates in a template storage device,

~~a template selection step comprising~~ selecting the template during the ~~template storing step~~ according to ~~attributes of the published information~~ an average character number per page, and producing a layout of the published information according to the selected template,

the average character number per page being based on a total character number of all unpublished articles, a maximum page number to be displayed that is stored in a user profile table, and a page number of a layout region to be processed.